

CUSTOMS PRIVILEGES FOR CONSULAR OFFICERS

Exchange of notes at Stockholm June 23 and 29, 1931

Entered into force July 1, 1931

Department of State files

The American Legation to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs

No. 105

NOTE VERBALE

The American Legation presents its compliments to the Royal Ministry for Foreign Affairs and has the honor to refer to a resolution passed by the Riksdag on March 23, 1931, amending Paragraph 5 of the Swedish Customs Tariff of 1929, so as to grant the right to import personal supplies without the payment of duty to foreign consular officers (consuls general, consuls, and vice consuls) in Sweden of countries according Swedish consular officers the corresponding privilege.

The American Legation, acting under instructions from its Government, has the honor to inform the Royal Ministry that the Treasury Department has in view of this resolution consented to extend, effective July first next, the free importation privilege to Swedish consular officers in the United States. Therefore, in addition to the free entry of baggage and effects upon arrival and return to their posts in the United States after visits abroad, which Swedish consular officers assigned to the United States already enjoy, such officers, who are Swedish nationals and not engaged in any other business, will be accorded on the basis of reciprocity the privilege of importing free of duty articles for their personal or family use at any time during their official residence, with the understanding that no article, the importation of which is prohibited by the laws of the United States, shall be imported by them.

The American Legation therefore has the honor to request the good offices of the Royal Ministry for Foreign Affairs with a view to arranging for the extension of similar privileges to American consular officers assigned to Sweden.

STOCKHOLM, *June 23, 1931*

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs to the American Legation

[TRANSLATION]

MINISTRY FOR
FOREIGN RELATIONS

In its note verbale of the twenty-third of this month, the Legation of the United States of America informed the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the decision taken by the American Government as a result of the modification effected in Swedish legislation relating to the matter, to grant from the first of July next free entry for goods imported by Swedish career consuls in the United States and destined for their personal use.

At the same time the Legation expressed the desire that measures be taken to instruct the customs officials to extend the same privilege to American consuls of career functioning in Sweden.

In acknowledging to the Legation of the United States the receipt of this obliging communication, the Ministry has the honor to inform it that, under the terms of a resolution of June 19, 1931, which will enter into force the first of July next, the free customs entry which is at present enjoyed by foreign diplomats in Sweden is accorded under the same conditions, on condition of reciprocity, to foreign consular representatives of career (consuls general, consuls and vice consuls) functioning in this country and not engaged in private activities with gainful purposes.

By virtue of a decree likewise promulgated on June 19, 1931, the enjoyment of this privilege is subject to the same rules, by analogy, as those established for diplomats, and of which the Legation was informed by a letter from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs dated June 27, 1927. But in order to claim a shipment it will be necessary besides for the interested consular representative to make an express declaration that he is not exercising in Sweden any activity of the nature described above.

In view of the fact that the reciprocity contemplated by the new Swedish regulation will exist henceforth, according to the note verbale under reference, for the Swedish consular representatives of career in the United States, it follows that the consular representatives of career of the United States of America in Sweden will likewise enjoy, from the first of July 1931, customs free entry.

The Ministry will be obliged to the Legation if it will be kind enough to invite the above-mentioned consular representatives to examine carefully the conditions to be followed and the formalities to be observed for the enjoyment of the privilege in question.

The Legation will please find enclosed herewith the text of the regulation and of the decree above-mentioned.

STOCKHOLM, *June 29, 1931*

To the LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA